

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/715,127
Reply to OA dated August 2, 2006

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 15, as shown. Please cancel Claims 2 - 14 and 16 - 21, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A storage culture apparatus for storing culturing samples on containers inside a chamber adjusted to predetermined ambient conditions, the storage culture apparatus being characterized in that a container transport device is disposed inside the chamber centrally thereof and comprises a transport table for placing the container thereon, and a drive mechanism for driving the transport table in the direction of X-axis and the direction of Y-axis which are orthogonal on a horizontal plane, and in the direction of Z-axis orthogonal to these directions, a container accommodating rack being disposed on each of opposite sides of the transport device which sides are along the direction of X-axis, the accommodating rack having container accommodating portions, ~~with all said container accommodating portions being arranged, at all times, solely along one plane including Y-axis and Z-axis~~ in the direction of Y-axis and in the direction of Z-axis for accommodating therein respective containers, the container being movable into or out of the desired container accommodating portion of the desired rack by the transport device,

wherein the container accommodating rack comprises a plurality of stackers arranged in the direction of Y-axis, and each of the stackers comprises container accommodating portions repeatedly provided in the direction of Z-axis

the chamber has an opening facing toward the direction of Y-axis and a door for closing the

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/715,127
Reply to OA dated August 2, 2006

opening, and the plurality of stackers constituting the accommodating rack are mounted on a drawer installed on a base and slidable in the direction of Y-axis, the plurality of stackers being withdrawable through the opening along with the drawer, with the door opened, and
the chamber has a container inlet for transporting the container into the chamber therethrough, the container inlet having a container into the chamber therethrough, the container inlet having a container carriage mechanism connected thereto, and the chamber has attached thereto a shutter mechanism for opening and closing the container inlet.

Claims 2 - 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A storage culture apparatus for culturing samples on containers inside a chamber adjusted to predetermined ambient conditions, the culture apparatus being characterized in that according to claim 1 wherein a container transport device is disposed inside the chamber centrally thereof and comprises a transport table for placing the container thereon, and a drive mechanism for driving the transport table in the direction of X-axis and the direction of Y-axis which are orthogonal on a horizontal plane, and in the direction of Z-axis orthogonal to these directions, a container accommodating rack being disposed on each of opposite sides of the transport device which sides are along the direction of X-axis, the accommodating rack having container accommodating portions arranged in the direction of Y-axis and in the direction of Z-axis for accommodating therein respective containers, the container being movable into or out of the desired

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/715,127
Reply to OA dated August 2, 2006

container accommodating portion of the desired rack by the transport device, wherein one or a plurality of different types of stackers can be arranged inside the chamber for accommodating containers therein, each of the stackers can be arranged inside the chamber for accommodating containers therein, each of the stackers containers being provided with identification information for identifying the stacker container, wherein the chamber has a container inlet for placing the container into the chamber therethrough, and the container inlet has a container carriage mechanism connected thereto, the storage culture apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body,

storage means for storing therein stacker type information of each of the stackers and the identification information therein provided on each of the containers,

information processing means for storing the stacker type information of each of the stackers in the storage means,

means for reading the identification information provided on the stacker each of the containers, the means being provided as opposed to the container inlet,

information processing means for storing the read identification information in the storage means, and

control means for controlling the operation of the apparatus body container transport device with reference to the stacker type information stored in the storage means and the read identification information stored in the storage means, and

an information display device,

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/715,127
Reply to OA dated August 2, 2006

wherein the information processing means stores delivery management information for managing the time to deliver the container in the storage means along with the container identification information, the control means being operable to monitor the delivery time for the plurality of containers arranged inside the chamber based on the container arranged inside the chamber based on the container identification information and the delivery management information stored in the storage means and to give the information display device a command to display arrival of the delivery time upon the arrival of the time to deliver the container.

Claims 16 - 21 (Canceled)